

Fusaro, Carolyn

From: Dawn Llewellyn [dawn.llewellyn@sbcglobal.net]
Sent: Sunday, February 24, 2013 8:24 PM
To: Fusaro, Carolyn
Subject: Mill River

Ms. Fusaro,

I am a Fairfield citizen writing to express my concerns about the removal of lead-contaminated sediments in the Mill River and Southport Harbor. This is a repeat of the 1983 dredging when the river was re-contaminated by drainage from the former battery site through pipes.

First, the operation in the Fairfield main river should not proceed under the "General Permit", but should require an Inland Wetland Permit. The Fairfield Conservation Department questioned how Exide could have expected such an allowance before their plans were in place.

Second, Exide has proposed to use a dredging system that allows silt to escape under through and over the soil curtain hung around the dredge. It did not work in 1983, so it will not work now. Instead a closed system cofferdams should be utilized in this contaminated area (I, II, II).

Third, Exide needs to refill excavated holes with clean fill; otherwise the deep holes will become anaerobic dumps, preventing the natural biological community of organisms from repopulating at the bottom of the river. The bottom of the river must be able to support life.

Fourth, Exide needs to proceed with the project from the upstream end, so as to deal with any matter that would make its way downstream. In addition, Exide needs to remove any residue lead in and around pipes, with extra steps of photo inspection.

Fifth, Exide needs to provide fish ladders for the tidemill, as well as the Swamp Mortar dams to mitigate damage.

I hope your department will impose these requirements on Exide's proposed action plan for removal of lead – contaminated sediments in the Mill River and Southport Harbor. The River population and estuary are dependent on good water quality to sustain life, so you need to provide proper oversight on the Exide project. We need to ensure quality conditions to protect life in the River.

Thank you for your support.

Dawn Llewellyn

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